Air Pollution due to additional private vehicles in Delhi

3921. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite change over of Delhi's public transport from diesel based to CNG based, the atmosphere on road remains chokingly polluted, with 500 to 700 additional private vehicles coming on the roads in the capital every day; and

(b) if so, the specific steps being taken to minimize the additional vehicles choking the air in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The ambient air quality trends in Delhi indicate over all improvement in air quality due to various steps initiated. Increasing trends of most pollutants have been arrested. However, the Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) levels still exceed the air quality targets.

(b) The steps taken to minimize vehicular pollution in Delhi include—

> Progressive tightening of vehicle emission norms from Euro-I to Euro-Ill.

> Tighter emission norms for in-use vehicles and revised Pollution Under Control (PUC) system.

> Regular pollution checks for vehicles through mobile enforcement teams.

> Establishement of Inspection & Maintenance facility planned.

> Introduction of Delhi Metro Rail System.

> Banning of plying of 8-year old state and contract carriage buses in NCT of Delhi unless running on CNG (Natural Compressed Gas).

> Banning of plying of pre-1990 autos and taxis unless replace with new vehicles on cleaner fuel.

> Ban on sale of loose 2 T oil and supply of only pre-mixed oil fuel for two and three wheelers.

> Construction of flyovers to decongest the traffic.